

REMARKS

Summary of Claim Status

Claims 4-23 and 29 are pending in the present application after entry of the present amendment. Applicants have canceled Claims 1-3 and 24-28 without prejudice, thereby rendering the rejection of these claims moot. Claims 1-4 and 24-28 are rejected for the reasons discussed below. Claim 29 is added. Claims 5-12 are objected to as depending from a rejected base claim, but indicated as allowable if properly rewritten in independent form. Claims 13-23 are allowed. Applicants thank the Examiner for this acknowledgement of patentable subject matter.

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of the claims and withdrawal of the pending rejections and objections in view of the present amendment and in light of the following discussion.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4 and 24-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Flannagan, U.S. Patent No. 6,031,408 ("Flannagan"). Applicants respectfully disagree; however, in the interest of advancing prosecution, Applicants have canceled Claims 1-3 and 24-28 without prejudice, thereby rendering the rejection moot. Applicants reserve the right to present such canceled claims in subsequent divisional or continuing applications.

Claim 4 is amended to depend from Claim 5, which is indicated as allowable. Therefore, Applicants believe Claim 4 is also allowable.

Objections

Claims 5-12 are objected to as being dependent from a rejected base claim, but indicated as otherwise allowable. Applicants thank the Examiner for this acknowledgement of allowable subject matter. Applicants have amended independent Claims 5 and 9 merely to recite the features of their base claim. Therefore, Applicants believe Claims 5 and 9 are now in form for allowance.

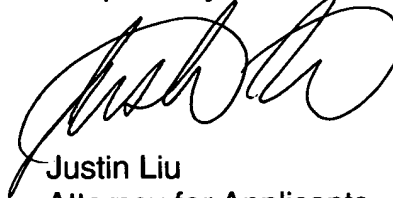
Claims 6-8 depend from Claim 5, and Claims 10-12 depend from Claim 9. Therefore, Applicants believe Claims 6-8 and 10-12 are also in form for allowance. Finally, Applicants have added new Claim 29, which also depends from Claim 9 and is also believed to be in form for allowance.

Applicants therefore respectfully request allowance of Claims 5-12 and 29.

Conclusion

No new matter has been introduced by any of the above amendments. In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants believe that Claims 4-23 and 29 are in condition for allowance, and allowance of the application is therefore requested. If action other than allowance is contemplated by the Examiner, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone Applicants' attorney, Justin Liu, at 408-879-4641.


Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. BOX 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on September 14, 2005.

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